

[REDACTED]
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

1-2029

22 JUL 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Frederick Z. Brown
Director, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

Mr. Frank A. Sieverts
Deputy Coordinator for Prisoner of War
and Missing in Action Matters
Department of State

Bruce L. Heller, Commander, USN (R)
Chief, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Branch
Resources and Installations Division
Defense Intelligence Agency

Raymond Vohden, Captain, USN
Principal Advisor for Prisoner of War and
Missing in Action Affairs
(International Security Affairs)
Office of the Secretary of Defense

FROM : Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Invalidation of Information Obtained from
[REDACTED]

REFERENCE : FIR-317/09161-77, 20 May 1977

1. Analysis of information provided [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and additional questioning have established the possibility
[REDACTED] did not obtain referent information in the man-
ner alleged or from the two principal subsources described.

[REDACTED] Both individuals, however, have
been confirmed as real persons.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 1 MAY 1978



[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] provided convincing documentation for [REDACTED] claims to previous employment by military and civilian U.S. organizations [REDACTED] have also been verified.

3. [REDACTED] is being processed for entrance to the United States as a refugee. We believe that further questioning by this agency [REDACTED] is not practical at this time.

4. Under the circumstances, it cannot be determined at this time whether any of [REDACTED] information is reliable.

CIR-316/02458-77

Now File

20. MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. JAMES D. ROSENTHAL
DIRECTOR, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA
BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

MR. FRANK A. SIEVERTS
DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR
AND MISSING IN ACTION MATTERS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRUCE L. HELLER, COMMANDER, USN (R)
CHIEF, PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION BRANCH
RESOURCES AND INSTALLATIONS DIVISION
DIRECTORATE FOR INTELLIGENCE (RESEARCH CENTER)

RAYMOND VOHDEN, CAPTAIN, USN
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR AND
MISSING IN ACTION AFFAIRS
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM : WILLIAM W. WELLS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT : REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF CAUCASIAN/AMERICAN
PRISONERS IN NORTH VIETNAM

NO HARD COPY FOLLOWS

ATTACHED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO YOU IS A REPORT RE-
SULTING FROM INFORMATION OBTAINED [REDACTED] IN
[REDACTED] MAY 1977. WE ARE GIVING THIS REPORT NO FURTHER
DISSEMINATION.

[REDACTED]
WILLIAM W. WELLS

CC: NIO
DDI/OPPA
DDI/OSR

ATTACHMENT:
REPORT AS STATED

FIR-317/09161-77

CLASSIFIED BY SIGNER. XGDS-2

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF CAUCASIAN/AMERICAN PRISONERS IN
NORTH VIETNAM

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. IN SPRING 1975 WHILE HE WAS ON A WORK DETAIL, (FNU)
[REDACTED] A FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WHO WAS CAPTURED BY PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN)
FORCES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN 1972 AND IMPRISONED IN THE
HANOI AREA UNTIL MAY 1975, SAW A GROUP OF CAUCASIAN PRISONERS
BEING MARCHED DOWN A RURAL ROAD NEAR HANOI. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID [REDACTED] RELATED THIS
INFORMATION TO HIM [REDACTED] AFTER [REDACTED] RELEASE FROM
PRISON IN MAY 1975.)

3. AN UNIDENTIFIED PAVN ARMY CAPTAIN TOLD A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THAT IN AUGUST 1976 HE SAW A TRUCK CARRYING

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[REDACTED]

AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WHO WERE BEING HELD IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA AT BA VI VILLAGE. THE PRISON CAMP WAS NEAR A TEA PLANTATION ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS FROM SON TAY. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE PAVN CAPTAIN RELATED THIS INFORMATION IN SEPTEMBER 1976 [REDACTED] WHO IN TURN RELATED IT TO [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN OCTOBER 1976 HE HAD SEEN ABOUT 15 TO 20 AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (PW'S) ON A TRUCK NEAR HAI DUONG WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING BY BUS BETWEEN HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

[REDACTED] SAID HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO OBSERVE THE MEN, DESCRIBED THEM AS CHAINED TOGETHER IN PAIRS, WEARING STRIPED PW UNIFORMS, AND ALL APPEARING EITHER SICK OR INJURED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DURING HIS YEARS [REDACTED] DOCTOR IN NORTH VIETNAM, HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN MANY AMERICAN PW'S, WHICH MADE HIM FEEL 100-PERCENT SURE THAT THE PRISONERS ON THE TRUCK WERE AMERICANS. [REDACTED] IN MID-1976 HE HAD SEEN AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM THAT CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO AMERICAN PW'S STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN UNIDENTIFIED PAVN OFFICER HAD ONCE TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE STILL "HUNDREDS" OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, BUT MOST

[REDACTED]

HAD BEEN DISPERSED TO CAMPS NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC). [REDACTED] SAID THAT [REDACTED]
A PAVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL, HAD TOLD HIM THAT AMERICANS WERE
STILL BEING HELD AS PRISONERS AS LATE AS MID-1976. (SOURCE
COMMENT: [REDACTED] DID NOT RELATE [REDACTED] ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION
ON THE EXISTENCE OF PRISON CAMPS, BUT ASSUMED ONE MUST EXIST IN
HIGHLAND AREA NEAR HAI DUONG BECAUSE OF SEEING THE TRUCK
CARRYING PW'S.) (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: [REDACTED] RELATED THIS
INFORMATION TO [REDACTED] IN [REDACTED] 1976. IN 1976
[REDACTED] MADE [REDACTED] VISITS TO [REDACTED] POSSIBLY THE UNIDENTIFIED
PAVN OFFICER MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH THE UNNAMED OFFICER [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] SAID HE OVERHEARD
A CONVERSATION [REDACTED] IN JUNE 1976 IN WHICH AN UNIDENTIFIED
PAVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOASTED TO A FEMALE [REDACTED] THAT THERE
WERE STILL MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS IN NORTH VIETNAM. (HEAD-
QUARTERS COMMENT: [REDACTED] RELATED THIS INFORMATION [REDACTED] AN
OLD FRIEND, DURING [REDACTED] VISIT [REDACTED] IN JULY 1976.)

6. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED BY SIGNER, XGDS-2.

FIR-317/09161-77

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]